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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,419	06/12/2001	Bill J. Coe	7282.4820	6102

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EXAMINER

DINH, TIEN QUANG

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/879,419

Applicant(s)

COE, BILL J.

Examiner

T. Dinh

Art Unit

3644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the pilot chute and the canopy and bridle cord connection must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6, 10, 11, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(B) as being anticipated by Peterson et al.

Peterson et al discloses a soft link, one-piece structure 10 with a permanently looped first end 12 (see figure 3) and second looped end 11 having a tab/lump 13. The soft link is made out of rope/high strength material.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calthrop in view of Peterson et al.

Calthrop discloses a parachute having a group of parachute suspension lines and a second member that is a riser both with openings that are attached together by a member but is silent on the soft link to tie the first and second members together. However, Peterson et al teaches that soft links that can be used to tie the parachute suspension lines to the riser through the openings are well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used Peterson et al's soft links in place of Calthrop linking means for easy manufacturing and for saving weight.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 13, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snyder '789 in view of Peterson et al.

Snyder discloses a parachute having a bridle cord and a second member that is a canopy that both are defining openings but is silent on the soft link to tie the first and second members together. However, Peterson et al teaches that soft links that can be used to tie the canopy and the bridle through the openings are well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used Peterson et al's soft links in Snyder's system to easily attach the canopy to the bridle lines.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Booth in view of Snyder '789 and Peterson et al.

Booth discloses a pilot parachute having a bridle cord 15 and a second member that is a canopy 16 but is silent on the canopy and bridle lines having openings and the soft link to tie the bridle cord and canopy together. However, Peterson et al teaches that soft links that can be used to tie the canopy and the bridle through the openings are well known in the art. Snyder teaches canopy and bridle lines having openings are well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the canopy and bridle lines have openings (as taught by Snyder) and Peterson et al's soft links in Booth's system to easily attach the canopy to the bridle lines and to easily repair the system if needed.

Claims 15, 16, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al in view of Dennington.

Peterson et al discloses all parts except for the soft link being made out of nylon. However, Dennington discloses that soft links made out of nylon are well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the soft link of Peterson et al out nylon as taught by Dennington to create a stronger structure.

Re claims 16, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used bartack thread in Peterson et al's system to create a stronger structure. Further, the criticality of using bartack thread has not been disclosed.

Re claim 21, please note it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used labels in Peterson et al's system to provide instructions or advertise the brand.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Jenkins, McLellan, Mendillo, and Gerker disclose tying means.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to T. Dinh whose telephone number is 703-308-2798. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Friday 8-6, alternate Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Jordan can be reached on 703-306-4159. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-306-4195

for regular communications and 703-306-4195 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-4177.

T. Dinh
Examiner
Art Unit 3644

TD
December 1, 2002

T. Dinh

12/1/02